THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

Is There Solution of This Important Problem Upon Which all Well-Intentioned Men and

Women May Agree? (By John Brisben Walker.)

Bishop Potter's very brave, though I think ill-advised, presentation of his views on the liquor question has served one purpose, which every manly stand taken in behalf of what a man regards as right must always accomplish. It makes other people consider seriously the same problem; and out of a multiplicity of thoughtful counsel comes wis-

. The result of many years' consideration of this very difficult problem leads me to the belief that it is entirely possible for the most extreme radical in favor of temperance, and the liquor-drinker most conservative of his rights, to unite. I will try to state the problem in a simple form.

I. In the United States there is expended annually for liquor the sum of over \$1,500,000,000.

II. In the United States, each year, there are made some hundreds of thousands of drunkards, filling asylums, bringing misery into homes, and causing semi-idiotic children to be born into the world. All, without exception, acknowledge the immensity of the evil of drunkenness.

III. In addition to the money expended yearly for liquor, the United States annually loses through inefficiency of its citizens, caused by liquor, a sum that may roundly be calculated at three hundred millions of dollars.

IV. Many men are not disposed to put on their neighbors the burden of absolute prohibition. They concede the right to drink

V. All men, except those engaged in the business of selling liquor, desire to restrict the evils of the liquor traffic. These evils

The corruption of youth.

The baneful influence exercised upon our political conditions.

The deprivation and suffering caused t women and children.

The loss in natural wealth.

The question then is:

What method of procedure will grant the liberty demanded by certain citizens, and at the same time prevent the corruption of youth, prevent the corruption of the citizenship of the country, and finally the waste of the country's resources?

The answer to all this seems to lie in one direction, and one direction only. Absolute prohibition is condemned by a considerable portion of the community: unrestricted license is condemned by a still larger portion of the community.

The mean between these two lies in turning over the liquor traffic to the government, as has already been successfully done in a number of states.

All liquor should be sold from state depots. It should be sold only in "packages" to be consumed elsewhere than in the salesroom. No sales should be made to minors.

The liquor sold should be of the best

quality. The prices charged would be more reasonable than those made at the present time: they would still be large enough to give the government a revenue several times that now derived from the sale of liquor.

This plan being carried out, the public secures the following results:

First, The temptation to youth drink in saloons located on every convenient corner, and to treat their friends, and in turn be treated-acknowledge to be one of the greatest evils-would be at once disposed of.

Second, We would no longer have in the community a very large class of men taking the most active interest in politics, whose success in business depends upon making drinkers of the youth and upon corrupting adult men and women.

Third, The independence of the citizen, and his right to buy liquor, would be undis-

puted. If in addition to this governmental monopoly of the liquor business, which, as already stated, has been so successfully introduced in a number of states, is added the instruction of youth in temperance, and the organization of temperance societies in the public schools as is done under the direction of the government in Belgium, we shall have rising generation safe guarded to the utmost against the evils of intoxication.

And the present time we have four classes of people taking part in the temperance dis-

First, Those whose business it is to make a profit out of the sale of liquor.

Second, Those who are in favor of absolute

Third, Those who believe that the right of the citizen to buy liquor if he chooses, should

be preserved. Fourth, Those who recognize fully the immense evils done by liquor, and are anxi-

ous to bring about a practicable reform in the situation. Except the first class, that embracing those

persons who profit by traffic in liquor, every one of the remaining classes could get together on this basis of state control of the

liquor traffic. Its effects would be immediate and far reaching.

It is a practicable reform, and if urged by all those now taking part in the endeavor to solve the liquor problem, could be success fully carried out within a brief number o months in every state. - Cos.nopolitan.

The Secret of Good Times.

It was a rainy evening toward the end of the summer, and "the crowd"—the four or five families of friends who had been spending a month together among the Vermont hills-had gathered about the Delands' open fire. Something-perhaps it was the combination of the rain without and the glowing fire within, perhaps it was the thought of autumn and work-seemed to put everybody n a reminiscent mood, and for an hour or so the talk ran upon the doings of their nearly ended holiday.

"If holidays could only last forever!" Maud Hastings sighed.

"Then they wouldn't be holidays," somebody retorted, quickly.

"What makes good time, anyway?" some one else asked.

Their hostess rose with an exclamation of leasure.

"What a fine question!" she exclaimed. 'There are pencils and paper right here. Suppose we each answer it, or try to, and then we'll read the answers aloud. Each one may name three requisites for a good time.

The plan "took" at once, and for a few minutes pencils were busy; then the papers were collected and read aloud. The answers, as was to be expected, revealed very diverse temperaments. The curious thing was that a most unexpected process of elimination began with the reading.

"'A book and a shady nook' and time to enjoy them," was the first response.

"A book and time to read it would be enough," some one amended.

"Oh, just a book!" a third corrected 'Sometimes I think you enjoy it most if you can only steal a few minutes at a time."

"'Health, a fine day, and all the world before you,' " another read, to be answered by a chorus of protests over the fine day. Did they not often have their best times on rainy ones? And a fragile girl in the corner added softly, "You don't even have to wait

So the papers went on, and finally a vote was taken, and the things most conducive to good times were decided to be a happy heart, friends and nature. It was the girl in the orner who made her discovery then.

"Why," she exclaimed, "I've so been pitying people who couldn't go away for vacations, but after all, the best three things are within reach of everybody-if he wants them enough!"

The hostess, gathering up the scattered papers, smiled as if something had pleased

A Hunter With a Heart.

Polar oxen are not very difficult to shoot, but they are highly valued game by the arctic explorer. In pursuing a small herd, Otto Sverdrup, author of "New Land. Four Years in the Arctic Regions," noticed the following evidence of maternal affection in a cow for its calf:

As the herd started I noticed that one of them had a newly born calf. The herd went up a steep snow-drift, eight or ten feet in height, and the calf made a brave attempt to follw, but when it had almost reached the top, lost its footing and rolled down to the bottom again. It fell so badly and helplessly that I thought it was killed, but to my surprise it rose to its feet and began to scramble up once more. Its second attempt to scale the drift was no more successful than the first, and again it came rolling down. It cried piteously. I felt so sorry for it that I was just startling to help it up the drift when suddenly it occurred to me that the old cow might misinterpret my motives, and what then? I might risk a battle with her, and it would be a pity perhaps to have to shoot her in self-defense. I decided to remain where I was, and await the turn of events.

At last the mother heard the cries of distress, and came tearing down the hillside, the snow flying behind her. Heaven help the person who had meddled with her calf then! She would have made it hot for him. It was both amusing and touching to see the two together. The mother caressed the calf as if to comfort it, sniffed it all over to see if it was still whole, gave it a push now and again, and then started gently up the drift, but not the way the calf had gone in following the herd. She carefully chose an easier

and less steep way. When she had got it across the drift she ran a few steps forward, not very fast, but too quickly at any rate for the calf to follow her. Then she turned back, and pushed it from behind with her muzzle, so that it went a little faster. Again she ran a few yards forward, but still the poor little thing could not keep up with her, and she returned to her old pushing methods. So they went on all the way up until they reached the herd. Then she took her place in it, the calf crept under her, and was entirely hidden from sight by her long hair.

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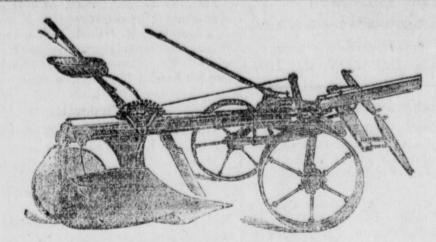
In the early days of the New York subway the contractor bought a two-hundred-acre swamp situated four miles beyond the limit of excavation. People wondered, but they soon learned his purpose. He dumped on his own property the earth and rock he took from beneath the streets, and raised the level twenty-two feet. The swamp that cost him seven hundred dollars an acre is now worth fifteen hundred dollars a building-lot.

Three years ago Riker's Island, in the East River, just porth of Hell Gate, which is owned by the city of New York, had an area of seventy acres. Forty acres have already been added to it, and when the work of filling shall have been completed, the island will be nearly five times as large as nature left it. The new land is composed of the contents of the city's ash barrels, the refuse that used to be carried far out to sea and thrown away.

It is estimated that in the last ten years more than thirty million dollars has been added to real estate values in Greater New York by "making" land. Philadelphia has gained a large park in this way. The fashionable Back Bay region of Boston was once covered with water, in some parts thirty feet deep. In other sections of the same city large areas along the water front, amounting in the aggregate to thousands of acres, have been reclaimed for business and residential

purposes. "Waste land" and "worthless rubbish" are familiar phrases, but at the present day they have lost their meaning. Even in the country, where values are low, there is probably no land but has its profitable use, which it is the owner's business to find. In the cities fortunes are being made from tracts that earlier builders disdainfully passed over. The problem of disposing of rubbish is more complicated, but it also is being solved. Dirt of any kind is only "matter out of place." The thing to do is to find the right place, put the dirt there-and get rich by the operation

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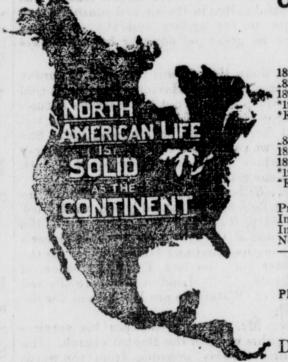
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